12 October 2017

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Report of the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Guatemala City from 2 to 6 October 2017

I. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention

Recommendations adopted by the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

1. The participants in the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean adopted the following recommendations, which had been drawn up by its working groups. The observations and conclusions of the working groups that led to the recommendations are set out in section IV below.

Issue 1. Coordinating the regional communication platforms supporting drug law enforcement across Latin America and the Caribbean

2. The working group on issue 1, "Coordinating the regional communication platforms supporting drug law enforcement across Latin America and the Caribbean", made the following recommendations:

(a) Governments of the region are encouraged to support inter-agency responses to addressing drug trafficking and related offences;

(b) Governments are encouraged to support international initiatives, such as the Airport Communication Project of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the UNODC and World Customs Organization Global Container Control Programme, that lead to better border management strategies and allow for the development of stronger interdiction measures;

(c) Governments are encouraged to provide adequate and targeted training to law enforcement, customs and border control authorities in combating trafficking in illicit firearms;

(d) Governments should take steps to encourage their authorities to make full use of the communication platforms available across the region for the timely sharing

* Available only in English, French and Spanish, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

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of information related to trafficking offences and the expeditious gathering of evidence against offenders.

Issue 2. Links between illicit drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering

3. The working group on issue 2, "Links between illicit drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering", made the following recommendations:

(a) Governments are urged to continue to implement measures that enable asset recovery, in particular in respect to non-conviction-based asset forfeiture procedures, ensuring that they apply to drug trafficking and to other forms of organized crime;

(b) Governments should take steps to improve informal and formal cooperation exchanges with one another, including to ensure a fast and timely response to requests for mutual legal assistance;

(c) Governments are encouraged to establish legal frameworks in support of cross-border joint investigations and agreements for the sharing of information and return of recovered assets;

(d) Governments should implement institutional integrity measures addressed to judicial, prosecutorial and law enforcement institutions to enhance the effectiveness of operations against organized crime and build trust to boost inter-agency and inter-regional cooperation;

(e) Governments should contemplate legislating the criminal liability of legal persons, requiring such persons to adopt mechanisms for the control and prevention of criminal risks, both internally and in their relations with other legal entities, primarily in the area of trafficking in drugs and precursors and organized crime.

Issue 3. Alternatives to imprisonment for certain offences as demand reduction strategies that promote public health and safety

4. The working group on issue 3, "Alternatives to imprisonment for certain offences as demand reduction strategies that promote public health and safety", made the following recommendations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to make full use of alternatives to imprisonment for people facing drug charges, in particular at the time of their arrest and at the pretrial stage, in order to provide evidence-based drug treatment, thus reducing relapse and decreasing recidivism and crime rate;

(b) Governments are encouraged to employ a multidisciplinary approach in providing treatment and rehabilitation as an alternative to conviction or punishment and to enhance institutional coordination between judicial, health and social services authorities;

(c) Governments should adopt measures to avoid barriers to access to effective treatment so as to guarantee that treatment is available, accessible, affordable, evidence-based and adapted to the special needs of women, children and other vulnerable groups, while ensuring the implementation of a zero stigma and discrimination policy;

(d) Governments are encouraged to sensitize criminal justice officials to the appropriate use of the different alternatives to imprisonment available under their internal legal framework for persons involved in minor drug cases, thereby enabling the State to provide an adequate social response from a human rights and public health approach.

Issue 4. Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them and to address their involvement in drug-related crime

5. The working group on issue 4, "Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them and to address their involvement in drug-related crime", made the following recommendations:

(a) Member States are encouraged to adopt legislation and procedures that protect the rights of young offenders and include a broad range of alternatives, including treatment, to imprisonment, leaving detention as a last resort;

(b) In cases of drug abuse disorders in children and youth, Governments are urged to prioritize a health system response over that of the justice system, one that provides specialized and effective professional treatment;

(c) Governments that have not already done so are urged to adopt comprehensive drug and crime prevention strategies and programmes that take into consideration the needs of children and youth, address the risk factors and vulnerabilities associated with each developmental stage and are in line with international standards and norms;

(d) Governments are encouraged to promote close and effective inter-agency coordination to ensure that the needs of underage drug offenders are appropriately considered and that treatment and evidence-based prevention services are provided;

(e) Governments are encouraged to undertake evidence-based assessments of the drug demand situation at the national level, with the support of quality monitoring, evaluation and data collection.

II. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures

6. At the first and second meetings, on 2 October 2017, participants considered agenda item 3, entitled "Major regional drug-trafficking trends and countermeasures". Participants had before them two documents prepared by the Secretariat, entitled "Statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Americas and worldwide" (UNODC/HONLAC/27/2) and "Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation" (UNODC/HONLAC/27/3). In addition, Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay and Spain had submitted national reports on the traffic in drugs by 1 August 2017 (UNODC/HONLAC/27/CRP.1-10), and Guatemala, Jamaica, Panama and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland after that date (UNODC/HONLAC/27/CRP.11-14).

7. A representative of UNODC introduced the item and made an audiovisual presentation on reported drug trafficking trends in the Americas and worldwide. The presentation was based on information provided by Governments to UNODC. During the discussion, statements and audiovisual presentations were made by the representatives of Colombia, Cuba, France, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru.

8. Several participants provided information on recent developments in drug trafficking trends in their countries and in the region, as well as on actions taken to combat drug trafficking. Updated data and information were also shared on seizures of drugs and precursors, methods of concealment, air and maritime trafficking routes and major drug trafficking organizations' areas of control.

9. Among the current and new trends that were reported were the appearance in the region of new psychoactive substances, the barter by drug traffickers in the Caribbean of cannabis resin from outside the region for cocaine and the increasing seizures of fentanyl, a drug that was emerging as a global threat.

10. Many speakers provided information on the detection of illicit drug crops, the seizure and dismantling of clandestine laboratories used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, the seizure of precursor chemicals and actions taken against money-laundering and for the recovery of assets derived from drug trafficking. Some speakers mentioned efforts made towards the eradication of illicit crops, complemented by alternative development strategies. One delegation stated that its country had stopped forced eradication and the aerial spraying of illicit crops with glyphosate.

11. A number of participants also reported on the development and updating of national drug control plans and strategies, legislation and regulatory frameworks.

12. Representatives also spoke of bilateral and subregional cooperation projects and joint operations, the sharing of information and the provision of law enforcement training. Reference was made to work in the area of control and inspection at container ports and airports in the region, in particular through the UNODCW and World Customs Organization Global Container Control Programme and the UNODC Airport Communication Project.

13. Some delegations reported on special units and inter-institutional task forces set up to fight organized crime and drug trafficking. Many speakers stressed that international cooperation was required to reduce the supply of illicit drugs across borders successfully and reported on bilateral agreements and joint operations between their countries and neighbouring countries. Some speakers drew attention to the use for drug trafficking by sea of semi-submersible vehicles and boats equipped with Global Positioning System devices to evade surveillance.

14. Some delegations reported on their countries' participation in multilateral initiatives and global operations, such as with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America, Project CRIMJUST for the strengthening of criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa and other initiatives for the fight against organized crime in the Caribbean.

15. Reference was made to measures for strengthening international judicial cooperation to ensure prosecutions and extraditions. Some delegations reported on their countries' programmes to reduce drug demand through prevention and treatment, including prevention in schools, counselling and primary and emergency health care.

16. Several participants emphasized the importance of addressing the world drug problem on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility, through an integrated, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based approach. The principles of non-interference with the internal affairs and respect for the sovereignty of States were also mentioned.

17. Some speakers underlined the need for achieving the goals set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem [1] of 2009 and the commitments made at the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, held in 2016. In the view of some delegations, the three international drug control conventions remained the cornerstone of international drug policy. One speaker stated that drug production and consumption had continued to increase and that the current international drug control system should adapt to new challenges and opportunities, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. The need for new indicators to better understand the drug phenomenon in terms of human development was also mentioned.

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

III. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

18. At the second meeting, participants considered agenda item 4, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean". Participants had before them a note prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAC/27/4) on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States members of the Meeting. In the note, the Secretariat had summarized the answers that it had received by 16 August 2017, which had come from Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Spain and the United Kingdom.

19. The Secretary of the Meeting made an introductory statement. The representative of Mexico made a statement to amend and complement information reported in the note by the Secretariat. The delegation of a country that had not returned the questionnaire provided information on the measures taken by its country to implement the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-sixth Meeting. Representatives from other countries complemented the information contained in the note.

20. The representative of Peru indicated that his Government had implemented all the recommendations. Measures taken included the exchange of information and joint operations with neighbouring countries, participation in the UNODC and World Customs Organization Global Container Control Programme and the UNODC Airport Communication Project and Project CRIMJUST, and inter-institutional demand reduction interventions. Alternatives to imprisonment for adolescents were under consideration by the criminal justice system, and a code of conduct on precursors had been published. The Pre-Export Notification Online system for the control of precursors was being regularly used, as was an early warning system for new psychoactive substances. Gender perspectives were integrated into drug policies and programmes, and gender-disaggregated data were regularly collected by the judicial system.

21. In complementing the information provided by means of the questionnaire, the delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia referred to its country's strategy for 2016-2020 for combating drug trafficking and controlling excess coca crop, as well as to new laws regarding coca leaf and the fight against drug trafficking. Overall, the legislation included a public health approach to drug consumption, provisions for the respect of human rights in coca growing areas and a definition of areas of licit coca production, in accordance with international conventions and the principle of common and shared responsibility.

IV. Consideration of topics by working groups

22. At the third to eighth meetings, from 3 to 5 October, participants considered agenda item 5, entitled "Consideration of topics by working groups". The observations and conclusions of the working groups are set out below. The recommendations of the working groups approved in plenary are set out in section I above.

Observations and conclusions of the working groups

Issue 1. Coordinating the regional communication platforms supporting drug law enforcement across Latin America and the Caribbean

23. The working group on issue 1, "Coordinating the regional communication platforms supporting drug law enforcement across Latin America and the Caribbean", met during the third and fourth meetings, on 3 October and made the following observations:

(a) The transport of large volumes of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals by sea remains a primary modus operandi of trafficking groups, while the expansion, affordability and reach of international air transport are increasing the opportunities for traffickers to employ couriers to transport drugs out of the region;

(b) The effectiveness of border controls is enhanced significantly when law enforcement agencies combine their professional skills, share information and are encouraged to carry out operations together;

(c) Trafficking in small arms in the region is on the increase and criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking are exposing civil society and law enforcement authorities to increasing levels of harm and violence through their use of firearms to protect themselves and their trafficked drugs;

(d) There are national and regional communication platforms, bilateral cooperation agreements between States and services provided by international entities (e.g. the Police Community of the Americas, the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization) across the region that support authorities in the secure sharing of information related to drug trafficking and related offences.

24. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Building trust among agencies is an essential first step towards establishing good communication and cooperation;

(b) Successfully developing multi-agency response teams to address trafficking and related offences is difficult, demanding but ultimately very effective when the combined professional skills, resources and legislative powers of each participating authority are unified;

(c) More must be done to address the flow of trafficked firearms into the region;

(d) Authorities should make full use of the national, regional and international communication platforms available throughout the region to share information related to combating trafficking and encourage their staff to make use of those services.

Issue 2. Links between illicit drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering

25. The working group on issue 2, "Links between illicit drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering", met during the fourth to sixth meetings, on 3 and 4 October and made the following observations:

(a) Drug trafficking has a significant negative impact across the region by increasing violent crime, disrupting local economies and fostering human trafficking, arms trafficking, environmental crime and money-laundering;

(b) Regardless of efforts made to fight organized crime and suppress illicit financial flows, such flows from developing countries are increasing at the global level;

(c) While significant progress has been made to implement the provisions of the drug and crime conventions relating to anti-money-laundering and asset recovery, more needs to be done to deprive organized crime organizations of their profits;

(d) The effectiveness of investigations and prosecutions is enhanced significantly when specialist law enforcement and prosecution entities are established to address organized crime offences connected with corruption and money-laundering;

(e) National and regional communication platforms and cooperation networks among States across the region help authorities in the secure sharing of information and the submission of requests for mutual legal assistance in cases of drug trafficking and related offences;

(f) The implementation of integrity policies can improve trust among law enforcement, prosecutorial and judicial services.

26. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) The implementation of legislative measures on anti-money-laundering and asset recovery, including non-conviction-based asset forfeiture, should remain a priority;

(b) There is a need for specialization within law enforcement and justice agencies that are dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of drug trafficking, other forms of organized crime, corruption and money-laundering;

(c) States should share good practices in respect to the effective implementation of non-conviction-based asset recovery laws and other asset recovery measures;

(d) The effectiveness of the fight against organized crime, corruption and money-laundering can be enhanced by adopting institutional integrity measures;

(e) A comprehensive approach should be adopted for the prosecution of drug trafficking and related organized crime offences, including money-laundering and corruption, so as to ensure that all criminal acts related to those individual prosecutions are covered in the sentencing;

(f) The potential use of legal persons by organized crime groups to traffic drugs and launder money should encourage support for the implementation of criminal law compliance measures for businesses as a means to prevent organized crime.

Issue 3. Alternatives to imprisonment for certain offences as demand reduction strategies that promote public health and safety

27. The working group on issue 3, "Alternatives to imprisonment for certain offences as demand reduction strategies that promote public health and safety", met during the sixth and seventh meetings, on 4 and 5 October, and made the following observations:

(a) The populations of people imprisoned for drug-related offences have significantly increased in most countries in the region, resulting in overcrowding, which affects negatively the health of prisoners and other basic human rights;

(b) The imprisonment of offenders convicted for minor drug offences is disproportionate to the gravity of many of the offences and has limited impact on the reduction of illicit drug use, relapse and recidivism, while requiring a significant increase in the budgets dedicated to prison management;

(c) Drug dependence is a complex multifactorial health disorder characterized by its chronic and relapsing nature that can be treated;

(d) While some progress has been made in respect to the implementation of alternatives to imprisonment for drug offences, States are yet to explore a broader range of such alternatives;

(e) Efforts made to implement alternatives to imprisonment are in line with existing criminal procedure reforms across the region that promote a greater use of

alternatives and stimulate conflict mediation and resolution in a way that satisfies all parties involved.

28. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Imprisoning those who have committed drug-related crimes of a minor nature is often a disproportionate punishment that does not prevent drug use;

(b) Implementing the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in respect to the use of alternatives to imprisonment for cases of a lesser gravity is an effective policy to address prison over crowdedness and health-related issues and results in a reduction of costs for the State;

(c) As drug use disorders are complex, multifactorial chronic health disorders characterized by relapses, it is necessary to take a comprehensive, multidisciplinary evidence-based approach that includes harm reduction policies;

(d) Any responses should enhance coordination between the health and criminal justice systems;

(e) Greater efforts need to be made to compile and analyse data about people facing drug charges and the impact of alternatives measures to imprisonment in order to define adequate policies and strategies.

Issue 4. Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them and to address their involvement in drug-related crime

29. The working group on issue 4, "Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them and to address their involvement in drug-related crime", met during the seventh and eighth meetings, on 5 October, and made the following observations:

(a) Drug abuse has been recognized at the global level as a public health issue;

(b) Even though there are examples of good demand reduction practices in the region, in general, few children and youth in conflict with the law have access to adequate and effective treatment through child protection institutions. The majority go through the criminal justice system;

(c) Children and youth who engage in drug abuse and trafficking are exposed and vulnerable to a variety of risks, in particular children who are in contact with the criminal justice system as they are exposed to a higher risk of violence;

(d) Member States have the opportunity to include in the political agenda the promotion of reforms to better serve and protect children and youth, thereby reaching a number of the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the recommendations adopted by the General Assembly in the outcome document of its thirtieth special session on the world drug problem, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem", in 2016; [2]

(e) Prevention, treatment, care, rehabilitation and social reintegration through families and community services that are based on scientific evidence and respect the rights and dignity of individuals can protect the health and well-being of children and youth from drug abuse and other health conditions;

(f) Multiple sectors and actors, including law enforcement and justice, child protection agencies, education, health and civil society, are involved in developing sustainable infrastructure, quality services and evidence-based approaches that protect the health, well-being and rights of children and youth;

[2] General Assembly resolution S-30/1, annex.

(g) There is a lack of reliable data and updated statistics collected both for analysing the new trends and challenges in drug use among youth and for measuring the progress of governmental drug demand policies.

30. The working group drew the following conclusions:

(a) Public policies that encourage restorative justice and support the principles of the proportionality of sentences and of alternatives to the conviction of juveniles for minor drug offences have been shown to be cost-effective;

(b) Drug policies that focus more on a health and individual approach reduce stigma, isolation and other negative social consequences for children and adolescents;

(c) At the national level, legislation and policies should be aligned with international standards and norms, while reflecting the cultural and social realities of the countries of the region, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention and the International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders of UNODC and the World Health Organization;

(d) Approaches to the prevention and treatment of drug abuse among young people should be based on scientific evidence and include the active and coordinated participation of all stakeholders (such as education, child protection and health agencies, the juvenile justice system, the law enforcement sector, the media and civil society) to address the full spectrum of their needs;

(e) In the face of the rapidly changing availability of illicit drugs, more needs to be done to improve access to reliable data and statistics so as to enable the identification of new and emerging trends and the profiling of young drug users through accurate analysis.

V. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016

31. At the eighth meeting, participants considered agenda item 6, entitled "Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016". Participants had before them the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the Implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem[3] and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly.

32. A representative of the Secretariat made an introductory statement. A representative of UNODC made an audiovisual presentation on a course that the Office had conducted in the Plurinational State of Bolivia on the implementation of the outcome document at the request of the Government of that country. During the discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8* (E/2014/28), chap. I, sect. C.

33. Some delegations stated that they saw the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly as a watershed that had redefined the way to address and counter the world drug problem, putting people at the centre and enriching the three pillars of the Plan of Action of 2009. They added that, as such, it was the new benchmark to which all had to aspire. It was also noted that each country should adapt the provisions of the various drug control instruments to its own reality and needs.

34. Some delegates indicated that their countries were striving to reach the goals set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action of 2009, the Joint Ministerial Statement of 2014 and the outcome document of 2016, in view of the review of the implementation of the commitments made in those instruments that the Commission had decided to undertake in 2019.

35. Several delegations recognized that steps had been taken to implement the recommendations of the outcome document at the national and regional levels and that there was a growing trend to apply a multidimensional, multidisciplinary, balanced approach to the world drug problem. Aspects of that approach included public health, demand reduction, human rights, a gender perspective, the prevention of crime and drug-related violence and attention to new psychoactive substances. Drug policies had become more balanced and effective to respond to new challenges and realities.

36. Reference was made to the Sustainable Development Goals and to the need to improve standards of living, social inclusion, justice and equality, in addition to demand reduction.

37. Some called for better coordination among national and regional stakeholders and United Nations specialized agencies. Reference was made to the three international drug control conventions and the leadership role of UNODC, the International Narcotics Control Board and the Commission. The ongoing thematic discussions on the follow-up to the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly at intersessional meetings of the Commission were also referred to by some speakers.

38. In the view of some delegations, there was a need for better statistics to assess the results achieved by means of new indicators in line with the seven sets of operational recommendations contained in the outcome document and in order to improve the implementation of comprehensive, integrated and balanced control strategies, policies and programmes to address and counter the world drug problem.

39. Some delegations stated that the provisions of and criteria established in the outcome document had informed their new national drug control policies, strategies and plans, including such elements as human rights, development, alternatives to conviction and punishment for drug-related crime, the prevention of violence associated with drug abuse, access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, gender mainstreaming and multiculturalism.

40. Several delegations reported on their efforts to implement the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document. Among the examples provided were road maps to improve drug-related statistics, the drafting of charts on progress towards implementing the operational recommendations laid out in the outcome document, alternative development projects in opium-producing areas in the region, the use of seized assets for the prevention and treatment of drug abuse, and the regulation of the medicinal use of cannabis.

VI. Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

41. At the eighth meeting, participants considered agenda item 7, entitled "Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs".

42. A representative of the Secretariat made an introductory statement, recalling that, in its decision 60/1, in response to the invitation contained in paragraph 97 of General Assembly resolution 71/211, and mindful of the requests contained in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/10 and the operational recommendation contained in paragraph 6 (c) of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the Assembly, the Commission had decided: (a) to examine how its subsidiary bodies could better contribute to the implementation of the outcome document; (b) to inform its subsidiary bodies of the invitation contained in General Assembly resolution 71/211; and (c) to invite the subsidiary bodies to consider that invitation at their upcoming meetings and report back to the Commission in due course.

43. Some speakers highlighted the importance of the involvement of the subsidiary bodies in the global discussions on international drug control held in follow-up to the thirtieth special session of the Assembly on the basis of the recognition in the outcome document of that session that the world drug problem was multidimensional. They stated that the subsidiary bodies should contribute to the implementation of the outcome document, taking into account new multidimensional challenges and the need for more humane drug control policies, by including in their agendas topics such as alternatives to imprisonment for offenders responsible for minor drug offences or a public health approach to demand reduction. Specific proposals for topics to be discussed at future Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean included: conducting a final review of advances made in the region in the implementation of the commitments made in the various drug control instruments, in view of their review by the Commission in 2019; a systematic follow-up to the seven sections of the outcome document; and the consideration of new drug-related indicators in working groups.

44. Other speakers, however, stated that it was important for the Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean to focus primarily on law enforcement issues and that demand reduction and other topics would be better dealt with in other forums. They also underlined the need to keep and strengthen the role of the Meeting as a platform for technical discussions and an exchange of practical and sensitive information among law enforcement professionals, within their areas of expertise.

VII. Organization of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

45. At the ninth meeting, on 6 October, participants considered agenda item 8, entitled "Organization of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean". Participants had before them a note by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAC/27/5).

46. Participants were informed that the Twenty-eighth Meeting was scheduled to be held in October 2018. The Chair invited delegations of States interested in hosting that Meeting to contact the Secretariat with a view to determining the venue as early as possible, thus facilitating preparations. During the discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, Mexico and Spain.

47. A number of delegations proposed the following subjects for discussion in the working groups of the Twenty-eighth Meeting: (a) new trafficking modus operandi and trends in concealment methods and transport, and effective investigative techniques in response thereto; (b) trafficking by commercial air transport; (c) methamphetamines and new trafficking routes through the region; (d) use of the darknet to promote trafficking and support money-laundering; (e) trends in precursor control, diversion trends and trafficking routes for cocaine precursors into and through the region; (f) methamphetamines and fentanyl as emerging challenges; and

(g) use of legal persons by organized crime groups to traffic and launder the proceeds of crime.

48. The Meeting took note of the proposals and requested the Secretariat to finalize the issues to be discussed by working groups prior to the Twenty-eighth Meeting. On that basis, the following draft provisional agenda for the Twenty-eighth Meeting was approved:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups [*to be determined*].
6. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016.
7. Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.
8. Organization of the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

VIII. Other business

49. At the ninth meeting, participants considered agenda item 9, entitled "Other business". The observer from the Russian Federation made a statement and an audiovisual presentation on a police training facility opened by his country in Nicaragua for the Central American region. The representative of Colombia referred to Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/28, entitled "Improvement of the functioning of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs", in which the Council had endorsed that membership of the Meeting should be based on membership in the respective regional commissions.

IX. Adoption of the report of the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

50. At its ninth meeting, the Meeting adopted its draft report (UNODC/HONLAC/27/L.1 and Add.1-8), including the reports of the working groups and the recommendations contained therein, as orally revised.

X. Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

51. The Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Guatemala City, from 2 to

6 October 2017. The inaugural ceremony was held on 2 October and speeches were delivered by the Vice-President of Guatemala, Jafeth Ernesto Cabrera Franco, the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Pablo César García Sáenz, the Fifth Vice-Minister of Interior, Oscar Miguel Dávila Mejicanos and the representative of the UNODC Executive Director and regional office for Central America and the Caribbean in Panama, Amado de Andrés.

B. Attendance

52. The following States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean were represented: Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Spain and United Kingdom.

53. The Russian Federation was represented by an observer.

54. CARICOM was also represented by an observer.

55. UNODC served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

C. Election of officers

56. At the first meeting, the following officers were elected by acclamation:

Chair:	Juan Rafael Sánchez (Guatemala)
First Vice-Chair:	José Camilo Sandoval (Colombia)
Second Vice-Chair:	José Luis Valdivia (Argentina)
Rapporteur:	McArthur Sutherland (Jamaica)

D. Adoption of the agenda

57. At the same meeting, the following agenda was adopted:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Major regional drug trafficking trends and countermeasures.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
   (a) Coordinating the regional communication platforms supporting drug law enforcement across Latin America and the Caribbean;
   (b) Links between illicit drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering;
   (c) Alternatives to imprisonment for certain offences as demand reduction strategies that promote public health and safety;
   (d) Practical measures tailored to the specific needs of children and youth to prevent and treat drug abuse among them and to address their involvement in drug-related crime.
6. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the

World Drug Problem, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016.

7. Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs Decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

8. Organization of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

9. Other business.

10. Adoption of the report of the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean.

E. Documentation

58. The documents before the Twenty-seventh Meeting are listed in the annex.

XI. Closure of the Meeting

59. The Vice-President of Guatemala and the Chair of the Meeting made closing statements.

V.17-07261

Annex

List of documents before the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

Symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
UNODC/HONLAC/27/1	2	Annotated provisional agenda
UNODC/HONLAC/27/2	3	Statistics on drug trafficking trends in the Americas and worldwide
UNODC/HONLAC/27/3	3	Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation
UNODC/HONLAC/27/4	4	Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean
UNODC/HONLAC/27/5	8	Organization of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean
UNODC/HONLAC/27/L.1 and Add.1-8	10	Draft report
UNODC/HONLAC/27/CRP.1-14	3	Country reports